

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 07516 071545Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----088102 071546Z /44

O 071532Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0712

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 07516

EXDIS

USEEC

PASS ERDA FOR SIEVERING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, PARM

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF IRRADIATED FUEL ELEMENTS FOR
REPROCESSING

REF: STATE 0530

1. COMMISSIONER BRUNNER CALLED ME FROM LUXEMBOURG JULY 7
TO ACQUAINT ME WITH RESULTS OF COMMISSION DISCUSSION OF
REPLY TO BE MADE TO MOST RECENT ERDA LETTER CONCERNING
TRANSFER OF AMERICAN ORIGIN NUCLEAR MATERIALS WITHIN
COMMUNITY (REFTEL).

2. HE SAID IN LIGHT OF COMMISSION DISCUSSION SPAAK WAS
BEING INSTRUCTED TO APPROACH BOTH SIEVERING OF ERDA AND
THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE A NUMBER OF POINTS ORALLY.
HE WAS ALSO TO LEAVE AIDE MEMOIRE REFLECTING COMMUNITY
POINT OF VIEW. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, MAIN THRUST OF COMMUN-
ITY POSITION IS THAT TERMS OF FEBRUARY 11 LETTER SHOULD
AT LEAST FOR NOW BE LEFT UNCHANGED. COMMUNITY COULD NOT
AGREE THAT US HAD RIGHT TO EXERCISE PRIOR WRITTEN CON-
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SENT TO TRANSFERS OF MATERIAL WITHIN COMMUNITY. APPARENT-
LY THIS IS NOT PRECLUDED FOR ALL TIME SINCE ONE OF ARGU-
MENTS THAT WILL BE ADVANCED IS THAT COMMUNITY IS IN
PROCESS OF NEGOTIATING WITH CANADIANS AND THAT ACCEDING
NOW TO AMERICAN POSITION WOULD PREJUDGE OUTCOME OF THOSE
NEGOTIATIONS. MOREOVER, COMMUNITY BELIEVES THAT ISSUE
SHOULD NOT BE PREJUDGED PENDING RESULTS OF INTERNATIONAL

NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION PROGRAM.

3. BRUNNER ATTACHED PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO WHAT HE SAID WAS CATEGORIC IMPOSSIBILITY TO PERMIT CANADIAN VETO OVER TRANSFER OF MATERIALS WITHIN COMMUNITY. HE SAID BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN, IN ROLE OF EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT, HAD MADE THIS CLEAR TO CANADIAN FOREIGN MINISTER JAMIESON. IT FOLLOWED THAT COMMISSION WAS SIMILARLY BOUND VIS-A-VIS THE US AND COULD NOT DEFEND BEFORE COUNCIL ACCESSION TO US VIEWPOINT. HE SAID HE HIMSELF WOULD SOON BE GOING TO CANADA SINCE COUNCIL HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO PURSUE CANADIAN DISCUSSIONS AT "POLITICAL LEVEL."

4. IN ENSUING DISCUSSION I SAID, "FAIR ENOUGH," BUT SUGGESTED THAT AIDE MEMOIRE SPELLING OUT HARD LINE COMMUNITY POSITION IN WRITING COULD PROVE TO BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND URGED THAT INSTEAD SPAAK BE GIVEN DISCRETION TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE DRAFT OF EVENTUAL COMMUNITY POSITION WITH SIEVERING AND STATE DEPARTMENT. I TOLD BRUNNER IN MY OPINION COMMUNITY SHOULD PROCEED WITH CAUTION SINCE THERE WERE, I THOUGHT, TWO DANGERS: ONE OF PREMATURELY FIXING POSITIONS IN CONCRETE AND OTHER OF INORDINATE DELAY IN SETTLING ISSUE. FIRST CONSIDERATION ARGUED FOR ORAL APPROACH AND SECOND CONSIDERATION ARGUED AGAINST WAITING FOR COMPLETION OF INFCEP.

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5. ON FIRST POINT, HE RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD CHANGE INSTRUCTIONS AND THAT SPAAK WOULD LEAVE A NON-PAPER. HIS CHEF DE CABINET MHLER SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED ME HERE IN BRUSSELS THAT THIS WILL BE COMMISSION APPROACH. ON SECOND POINT, BRUNNER SAID THERE WERE SOME SIGNS THAT CANADIANS MIGHT BE PREPARED TO WORK OUT TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS DURING PERIOD OF INFCEP AND THAT HE THOUGHT SUCH A FORMULA HAD PROMISE IN US CASE AS WELL. HINTON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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